

BELIEFS OF THE PEASANTS

Odd Christmas Superstitions Handed Down From Past Ages to the Ignorant Europeans.

THE peasantry of Europe have had certain Christmas superstitions handed down to them from past ages. Just how far these simple folk can be fooled is to be wondered.

If the light is let go out on Christmas morning, you will see spirits.

If you are born at sunset on Christmas eve, some one in the house will die within the year.

If you steal hay the night before Christmas, and give the cattle some they will thrive and you will not be caught in any future thefts.

If you eat a raw egg, fasting on Christmas morn, you can carry heavy weights. It is unlucky to carry any thing from the house on Christmas morning until something has been brought in.

It is unlucky to give a neighbor a live coal to kindle a fire with on Christmas morning.

If the fire burns brightly on Christmas morning, it betokens prosperity during the year; if it smolders, adversity.

If a dog howls the night before Christmas, it will go mad within the year.

If you steal anything at Christmas without being caught, you can steal safely for a year.

On Christmas eve thrash the garden with a flail, with only your shirt on, and the grass will grow well next year.

Tie wet strawbands around the orchard trees on Christmas eve and it will make them fruitful.

On Christmas eve put a stone on every tree, and they will bear the more.

Beat the trees on Christmas night, and they will bear the more.

If after a Christmas dinner you shake out the tablecloth over the bare ground under the open sky, crumb-worm will grow on the spot.

If on Christmas day or eve, you hang a washcloth out on the hedge, and then groom the horses with it, they will grow fat.

As often as the cock crows on Christmas eve, the quarter of corn will be as dear.

If you burn elder on Christmas eve, you will have revealed to you all the witches and sorcerers of the neighborhood.

SHOULD MAKE OTHERS HAPPY

Best Way to Celebrate Christmas is to Do Something in Memory of Childhood Days.

IT SEEMS that when one has grown a little old, the best and the happiest way to celebrate Christmas is to do something for remembrance—in remembrance of one's own childhood, for Christmas is really for the children, after all.

It is for children more than for others because it is a day that commemorates the birth of a child—that won Christ child that was born in a manger of a stable in the little town of Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

There will be scarcely a child in the world who will not await the dawn of Christmas morning with a yearning soul. It is the dawn of a new day when the morning stars sang and when peace on earth and good will toward men were proclaimed from the high heavens. But there will be many a child to whom Christmas will not bring its dearly loved happiness.

The children of the rich will not be disappointed, nor will the children of the very poor be disappointed. It is the child who has not rich or well-to-do folks, but who, at the same time is not subject for charity, who will be unhappy when Christmas comes.

And it is this child that you should seek out and make happy—for remembrance.

You see, it is a fact that we can have a happy Christmas for ourselves by making some one else happy.

Do not think that you can make a happy Christmas for yourself any other way, because you cannot do so.

Try the way here pointed out. The child is easily found, and when you have found that one and have made it happy, the very angels of God will envy you the gladness that you will feel.

Devil's Food Cake.

Beat to a cream five level tablespoonfuls of butter and one cupful and a quarter of sugar. Add 3 1/2 squares of unmelted chocolate, three unbeaten eggs and one teaspoonful of vanilla and beat together until smooth. Sift 3 1/2 level teaspoonfuls of baking powder with one-half cupful of flour and stir in with the butter, sugar and egg mixture. Then add alternately milk and flour until you have used three-quarters of a cupful of milk and one cupful of sifted pastry flour. Beat smooth and bake in a loaf in a moderate oven. Pastry flour is always better for cake than bread flour.

After Santa Has Filled to O'erflowing—

—the stockings of each girl and boy with trumpets and horns made for blowing, and every known kind of a toy—I wish that he'd buy me a present, a gift that no other could match, that would make me feel jolly and pleasant—some woolens that never would scratch.

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